

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.– 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a biological sample for quantification ~~from a biological sample~~, which includes ~~is to be used for quantifying an element~~ element to be quantified ~~in said biological sample~~,

said method comprising [[a]] steps of

collecting a ~~mixing an unknown~~ volume of biological sample ~~collected~~ without quantifying the [[a]] volume thereof to mix with a specified volume of an aqueous solution,

measuring an absorptivity of an indicating material in the aqueous solution,

measuring an absorptivity of the indicating material in the collected biological sample mixed with the specified volume of the aqueous solution,

calculating a dilution ratio of the biological sample using the absorptivity of the indicating material in the specified volume of the aqueous solution and the absorptivity of the indicating material in said biological sample mixed with the specified volume of the aqueous solution,

measuring an absorptivity of said element in the biological sample mixed with the specified volume of aqueous solution, and;

obtaining a quantified value of said element in the biological sample using the measured absorptivity of said element and the calculated dilution ratio.

15. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in which said specified volume of aqueous solution contains a specified amount of indicating material.

16. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in further comprising a step of adding a specified volume of aqueous solution containing a specified amount of indicating material.

17. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in which said indicating material is a pigment or a chromogen.

18. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 17, in which said chromogen is an oxidative coloring type chromogen.

19. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in which said biological sample is either one of a whole blood, a blood plasma or a blood serum.

20. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in which said aqueous solution is a buffer solution.

21. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, in which said elements to be quantified are elements in the blood serum.

22.-41. (Cancelled)